



Vol. 5

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Independent Living Program
Newsletter

Dear ILP Teens,

Now is the time to learn and practice money management skills that will help you to become successful once you are living on your own. Where do you begin? Start by attending ILP workshops and conferences so that you can earn some cash. We realize that your time is valuable and most workshops pay \$25 for 2 to 3 hours. That means you're earning approximately \$8 to \$12 per hour. Other full day conferences pay up to \$50 and the 10 week Hard and Soft Skills Classes pay up to \$120 upon completion if you have perfect attendance. It is very possible to earn a couple of hundred dollars in one year of full participation in ILP! Keep in mind that there will be times when ILP will offer a gift card to Wal-mart, Target, or Ross as an incentive instead of a check. If you want to know which incentive you'll receive, just ask the ILP clerk when you call to sign up for a class. Remember to save some of your earnings in a bank account or piggy bank, whichever works best for you. There will be many situations that arise once you have been dismissed from foster care that will require money. Save now so that you'll be better prepared later.

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San Bernardino County
Department of
Children's Services



Youth Advisory Board

Youth from the San Bernardino County have come together to form a board known as Y.A.B (Youth Advisory Board). The board currently consists of seven current and former foster youth and six adult mentors. The board comes together to discuss issues, that need to be changed to better the system and that are more beneficial to current foster youth. The adult mentors are there to support us and lead us in the right direction. We also participate in conferences, where other boards like ourselves come together and talk about the issues that they are working on. We also attend the monthly taskforce meeting and the Family Group Decision Making meeting. The board meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Cameron Hill Aftercare Services at 1894 Commercenter W. Ste 304, San Bernardino 92408. Transportation is provided, if needed. If you want to have a voice, become a leader, and make a change please come join us. For more information about Y.A.B or if you have any question, please contact:

**Roxie at (909)915-0704 or by e-mail at:
yabsbcounty@yahoo.com**



Cameron Hill's Next Top Model

by: Jamie Hose

With the popularity of America Next Top Model on the rise, more attention has been given to modeling and the art of fashion design. Cameron Hill Aftercare was also swept up in this trend as its young adults participated in a fashion show this past January. We brought in the year with glitter and glam as our young adults strutted down the runway. This opportunity drew young women and men alike. Some of the children of Cameron Hill employees also joined the modeling team.

Just as the contestants on the WBN's hit show found out, modeling is much harder than it looks. It takes a lot of practice to make beauty look easy. There were practices held every Tuesday from seven to nine P.M. The room filled with Hip Hop music as each model began to walk the walk and look the part of a fashion diva.

On January 14 all their hard work paid off as the night of the show presented itself. The show was hosted at Banning Community Center by a local church. There were three categories, children, young adults and diva. The ages ranged from 2 years to over 30 years. Each model rocked urban wear, casual wear and formal wear. Gigi, one of the child models recalled the night with excitement. "I was a little nervous at first but when I went out on the runway and heard them clapping and taking pictures, I was okay. I loved it!" One of Cameron Hill's young adults, Beonka stated, "This is so much fun! I am glad that you guys encouraged us to do this." With the runway lit up and lights to set the mood, each model put their practice to the test and owned the runway.

The variety of entertainment kept the mood alive. The intermission

brought with it praise dancers, gospel music and young fashion designers on the rise. The whole show was done to gospel music and there were no winners or loser. It was a chance for the community come together, shine, and celebrate the beauty of our youth and the young at heart. Cameron Hill Aftercare worker, Dena Welch, was able to see the young adults improve from the first night of practice to the night of the show. She felt the show helped boost the models self confidence. It helped them to gain a sense of accomplishment. They grew a lot over time and were able to enjoy the fruit of all their work.

The staff of Cameron Hill would like to recognize our young adults, Anita Pierre, Michael Booker, Beonka Jacques and Victor King and congratulate them on a job well done. You "rocked" the fashion show and made us proud.

Youth Resources

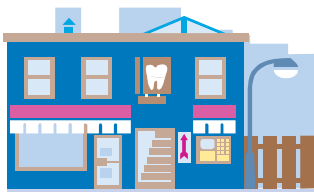
Cameron Hill Aftercare Services: Aftercare for all exiting youth 1-877-CHA-4911 or 1877 242-4911

Inland Empire Job Corp Center: (909) 887-6305

Foster Care Ombudsman Office: Know your rights as a foster youth 1-877-846-1602

California Conservation Corps: (909) 862-0767

Regional Occupational Program (ROP): Job Training and High School Credits/Call 411 and ask for the School District Office in your area



Transitional Housing Placement Program



The Transitional Housing Placement Program is in need of responsible, stable ILP youth who meet the eligibility requirements to move into our fully furnished apartment complex in Colton. If you meet the qualifications listed below, call your primary social worker and ask them about moving into the THPP site. It is a great way to learn how to become independent!



- youth must be in a stable placement for at least 6 months
- youth must demonstrate a willingness to learn how to live independently
- eligible candidates must not use drugs or alcohol and must not have any behavioral problems
- youth must be willing and able to reside in the T.H.P.P. apartment complex for a minimum of 6 months before emancipating
- youth must be willing to work part-time

There is an on site program facilitator from Olive Crest to monitor youth and assist with shopping, appointments, visits, etc... If you have questions call Kevin Anderson, ILP Coordinator at (909) 891-3559 or the ILP Social Worker in your region.

6th ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR CONFERENCE

On March 11, 2006 the Independent Living Skills Program held its 6th annual Health Fair Conference at the Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga. The focus of the conference was to teach youth about a diversity of health and safety issues such as Brain on Drugs, Reproductive Health, Tobacco, Nutrition and Gangs and Drugs.

The day started with a quite hearty breakfast followed by the opening of the conference after which the keynote speakers attracted the attention of the youth with the delivery of a very strong message. They spoke about Operation Clean Sweep: "Gangs and Drugs." Officer Pete Recatto from the

California Highway Patrol and Officer Clark Morrow from the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department emphasized the importance for the youth to stay away from gang activities and the consequences that accompany such participation. The youth were actively asking the officers questions and making comments about their own experiences in their neighborhoods. The youth were then released to their respective workshops.

After the youth completed the morning workshop sessions assigned to them they enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Juan Pollo. Once the noon workshop

sessions were over, the day culminated with a raffle of very neat prizes. The raffle items consisted of electronic equipment, cellular phones, bicycles, etc. In addition to all the raffle prizes, each youth received a bag full of toiletries and a nice heavy sweatshirt, which came extremely handy that day due to the relentless heavy rain and hail that accompanied us throughout the day. But in spite of the bad weather, surprisingly enough there was a great turnout. The youth didn't seem bothered by the weather conditions because they had a good time and took with them a great deal of practical information.

Senior Graduation Conference

On April 28, 2006 the San Bernardino County Department of Children's Services Independent Living Program held it's annual Senior Graduation Conference at the San Bernardino Hilton Hotel.

This event is a celebration for our graduating senior ILP youth. DCS staff and program youth enjoyed entertainment and a certificate presentation before having a dinner that included chicken teriyaki and cheesecake.

After dinner staff and youth kicked up their heels and danced to a DJ and spent time enjoying one another's company during this rewarding celebration of accomplishment for our ILP youths.

Approximately 70 youth attended the event and each youth received a certificate of completion in addition to their graduation incentives and class rings.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATING
SENIORS!!!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



Hello's and Good-bye's



June is graduation time and ILP is happy to report that Maria Weiss, ILP Social worker II for the Carousel San Bernardino DCS office will receive her Master's Degree in Social Work from Cal State San Bernardino. While enduring a rigorous graduate school schedule, Maria was able to maintain her role as ILP social worker giving support to the DCS staff at the Carousel office as well as assisting former and current foster care youth in accessing ILP services. Maria will be promoting to a Social Services Practitioner in the San Bernardino Region. Join us in congratulating Maria on receiving her Masters degree and a promotion.

ILP would like to welcome Janelle Edwards. She has joined ILP as a social worker II and will assist youth in the desert region two days a week accessing ILP services. Janelle has a background with DCS where she worked in Recruitment with foster parents. The ILP team is excited to have Janelle and looks forward to her adding her personal touch to some of the services that are provided to former and current foster care youth. Though Janelle will be in desert two days a week she can be contacted at (909) 891-3674. Again lets welcome Janelle to ILP.

Youth Attend State Leadership Conference

Some of our local youth advisory board members recently had an opportunity to attend a State Leadership Conference in Kentucky. Below are some of their comments and reactions to the opportunity.

I am thankful for getting the chance to participate in the Kentucky conference because it enable me to see a new state, meet new people and learn about other youth. My favorite part of the conference was the speaker Josh Shipp and the Pizza. I learned that even if you have had a rough life that it does not give you the excuse to not succeed. At the conference I learned the importance of being a leader and not a follower; to surround your self with the people that share the same interest, and goals. I can not wait for the next conference. I really enjoyed meeting the KYnex youth because it really helped to give the Youth Advisory Board the hands on experience we need in order to be able to hold our own conference some day. Seeing what it takes to put on a conference from the back stage will make it easier for us to do our own conference because we are not going in blind folded.

Scout Parker

Being able to participate in the Kentucky conference was a great learning experience and I am grateful to have been a participant. I participated in different workshops, from managing credit to learning about hip hop. There were two extraordinary speakers, whom I really enjoyed: Josh Shipp and Jaiya John; I even bought Jaiya John's book called *Black Baby, White Hands*. There were plenty of ice breakers and activities to be able to interact with other youth. There was also a panel of youth who gave their stories about the foster system and what they thought needed to be changed. This was a great experience and I hope to participate in another one in the future.

Roxie Findsen

ILP Staff

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To Register for ILP Workshops and Events Contact the ILP Clerk in your region:

If you live in; San Bernardino, Colton, Redlands, Yucaipa, Highland, Calimesa, Muscoy, Devore, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, or the San Bernardino Mountains call:

Irma Romero at (909) 386-1394

If you live in; Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Chino, Chino Hills, Etiwanda, Upland, Fontana, Rialto, Montclair, or Bloomington call:

Sandra Hernandez at (909) 945-3931

If you live in; Victorville, Barstow, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Yucca, or other desert areas call:

Stacey Bryant at (760) 843-2807

ILP Services

is your contact for: Desert Workshops & Driver's Training

Leslie Abram is your contact for: ILP Newsletter, Rancho Workshops, Scholarships & Car Match

Gregoria Marin is your contact for: Tutoring, San Bernardino Workshops & Scholarships

Janelle Edwards is your contact for: San Bernardino Workshops and Scholarships

San Bernardino County
Department of
Children's Services



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